DIGITAL TECHNOLOLGY STRATEGY

Review cycle:	Two yearly
Reviewed by:	IT Steering Group
Approved by:	Local Governing Body

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	CHANGES
1	18 March 2025	Julie Rickerby	New strategy

Contents

To champion and rejoice in those we serve, creating an environment where excellence is achieved and potential fulfilled

Rationale

Digital technology has increased significantly over the last decade and the COVID-19 pandemic led to the need to provide remote and blended learning. The sudden increase in technology use, additional devices, extended infrastructure requirements, and the haste to implement new systems to facilitate teaching and learning, has led to schools playing 'catch up'.

This digital strategy will solidify best practice, promote digital literacy and digital citizenship, and ensure that pupils are given the best opportunities our school can provide.

To adequately implement these opportunities, financing, staffing, IT support, online safety, online security, training, infrastructure improvements, and policy and processes must all be reviewed.

Digital technologies will be integrated into the wider curriculum strategy and Academy Improvement Plan (AIP), to ensure the delivery of successful outcomes. Overuse of technology can have a negative impact and new technologies should be selected based on the benefit they provide and how they complement existing teaching methods.

Digital Strategy Vision

The overall vision for West Grantham Secondary Academy is to enhance teaching and learning, and ultimately improve outcomes, through the use of digital technology. The school and our staff will foster a positive attitude and utilise new technologies in all areas of the curriculum and at all levels.

West Grantham Secondary Academy intends pupils to have access to a range of digital technologies to learn the life skills needed for them to contribute to today's digital world responsibly, with positivity and creativity.

Aims
- To clearly communicate strategic direction for digital technology, which is embedded across the curriculum.
- To ensure policies and procedures based on best practice, are regularly reviewed and available to stakeholders.
- To ensure procurement is controlled, underpinned by value for money, managed centrally with reference to 'privacy by design', security needs, and sustainability.
- To ensure delivery of a reliable and secure infrastructure that balances the needs of uses with effective, innovative use of technology for learning, teaching, and working.
- To maintain and extend digital technology resources, as required and within budget constraints, including hardware, software, and infrastructure.
- To protect users and systems against threats to security and safety, incorporating reporting procedures.
- To carry out, and ensure that risk assessments for digital risks, including security and safeguarding, are documented and reviewed, and that mitigations are implemented, balancing the needs of users.

Aspects of this Digital Strategy

1.	Culture	Instilling ethical, respectful, responsible, and supportive use of technology, backed by sustainable resources.
2.	Competence	A creative curriculum delivering digital opportunities, by staff trained with the right skills and backed by CPD.
3.	Connective	Providing access to innovative technology, applications, devices, and digital resources to enable modern ways of working and learning.

4.	Protective	A safe and secure online environment for all, protecting users and their personal information.
5.	Participative	Systems and processes, which are facilitating, and promote inclusion and equality for all.
6.	Productive	Systems which meet the needs of users and have the necessary capabilities to deliver required services.

1. Culture

Instilling ethical, respectful, responsible, and supportive use of technology, backed by sustainable resources.

We will:

1. Promote digital citizenship at all levels and teach pupils that ethics apply to life 'online' just as they apply in 'real life'.
2. Ensure all users act responsibly online, are respectful when communicating with others and when creating content, including the respect of copyright rules.
3. Foster a supportive environment, providing training opportunities and encouraging peer-to-peer support and signposting where appropriate.
4. Control and efficiently manage resources, considering sustainability and lifespan of equipment.
5. Ensure board members drive innovation and investment in digital technology for teaching and learning, supported by robust policy.
6. Ensure a positive attitude towards technology and its role in planning, teaching, assessing, learning, and communicating.

2. Competence

A creative curriculum delivering digital opportunities, by staff trained with the right skills and backed by CPD.

We will:

1. Ensure staff know when to use/not use technology confidently.
2. Ensure staff are technologically and digitally skilled through timely, appropriate training opportunities.
3. Develop and promote creative learning opportunities for all learners.
4. Ensure that digital technology is integrated in all areas of curriculum and assessment delivery.
5. Ensure that learners are equipped with the life-skills required to be a part of today's digital world.

3. Connective

Providing access to innovative technology, applications, devices, and digital resources to enable modern ways of working and learning.

We will:

1. Budget for, and invest in, school network infrastructure to promote long term resilience.
2. Secure accessibility to the data and information required to meet user needs.
3. Ensure a regular maintenance and renewal programme for devices and systems.
4. Provide a stable and reliable network, backed by good internet connectivity and bandwidth.
5. Provide secure and centrally managed communication tools (telecoms, email, instant messaging, social media and video and web conferencing/meeting technologies / mobile telephony) which are fast, secure, and efficient.

4. Protective

A safe and secure online environment for all, protecting users and their personal information.

We will:

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1. Teach Online Safety and Online Security and promote protective behaviours.
2. Ensure user access is well controlled and role-specific and that there is secure user authentication.
3. Implement security procedures, in line with the ICT Policy and advice from the NCSC, to secure systems that protect against threats.
4. Provide monitoring and web filtering to protect users and meet with Prevent Duty requirements.
5. Embed reporting and recording mechanisms for incidents and concerns.
6. Conduct a data protection impact assessment (DPIA) for personal data held as required by GDPR
7. Ensure that artificial intelligence software is used responsibly in line with the Artificial Intelligence policy

5. Participative
Systems and processes, which are facilitating, and promote inclusion and equality for all.

We will:

1. Ensure there is access to inclusive resources and adaptive technology to provide equal opportunities for all.
2. Ensure staff have training on adaptive technology and commonly used accessibility tools such as immersive reader, dictate functions, and read aloud capabilities.
3. Encourage staff and students to recognise the benefits of technology and engage with it positively.
4. Be flexible in our approach to teaching to ensure technology, or lack of access to it, does not become a barrier to engagement.
5. Stay abreast of new technologies and consider digital transformation projects, as necessary, and planned with this strategy in mind.

6. Productive
Systems which meet the needs of users and have the necessary capabilities to deliver required services.

We will:

1. Provide access to professional IT support, with skilled staff managing users' expectations
2. Balance assessed risks and benefits to maximise useability.
3. Ensure policies, procedures, and processes are clearly defined, well understood and support teaching and learning, safety, and security.
4. Provision flexible IT systems that can adapt to need, exploit opportunities, and work with changes in technology.
5. Manage transformations actively, with the principles of minimal disruption and maximum benefit at the core.

Assessed Impact
The impact of new technology will be assessed with consideration to:

- Saving time
- Saving cost
- Enhancing learning
- Enhancing teaching
- Improved communication
- Improved collaboration
- Ease of use
- Ease of sharing

Obligations

Our school and governors will…
- Have a positive attitude towards digital technology at every level from the board down.
- Have well communicated and regularly reviewed policies in relation to digital technologies.
- Make digital resources available to all stages and facilitate their use.
- Ensure equipment and resources are maintained and renewed, allocating funds, as necessary.

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- Provide ongoing training and support to staff members in their use of digital technologies.
- Cascade online safety, privacy, and security messages to users, at a role specific and age-appropriate level.
- Have appropriate hardware, software, and infrastructure that supports all users and their needs.

All users will...
- Adhere to acceptable use protocols and school policy.
- Apply their skills and knowledge to use digital technologies safely and responsibly.
- Have a positive mindset towards technology with the confidence and competence to embrace digital technology and the internet.

Our staff will...
- Seek out and undertake digital technology professional development opportunities in both formal and informal contexts, including whole-school training, peer-to-peer support, third-party / other school collaborations and formal training, as appropriate.
- Develop the skills, confidence, and abilities required to demonstrate and utilise digital technology solutions.
- Use digital technology, applications, and access online content, during and when planning learning and teaching.
- Make effective use of freely available tools such as Microsoft 365 for communication, collaboration, and teaching and learning.
- Be confident in their knowledge to use the internet and digital devices safely and responsibly and instil this in their learners, imparting key safety messages around digital technologies.
- Ensure they have the skills and confidence to support children with additional needs using digital technologies and promote inclusion at all levels.

Our pupils will...
- Know how to select and use appropriate digital technology for learning, life, and work.
- Develop the skills and abilities needed to actively participate in today's online world.
- Understand and demonstrate the benefits of digital technology in their learning.
- Use a range of digital strategies to support their learning.
- Be provided with the opportunities to work collaboratively using digital technology.
- Have opportunities, and the means to use digital technology, to access online content.
- Understand and be confident in reporting any concerns.
- Know how to ask for, and receive, support with digital technology use.

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